other institutional members on file in the office; and if you are interested in their services or products, do not hesitate to write for information.

OUR STORY OF THE MONTH

Know a Vermont Grandfather Clock Story?

There are plenty of grandfather clocks in Vermont. We are looking for a story that will have a Vermont flavor and better this story that comes out of the West. It seems that the owner of such a clock boasted that he had the oldest one in existence. Why? The shadow of the pendulum swinging back and forth on its journey of the many years had worn a hole through the back!

GREEN MOUNTAIN LAND

Flaherty Film Now Available

The new all-Vermont film, based on the book *The Vermont Story* by Earle W. Newton, former director of this society and now at Old Sturbridge Village, in Massachusetts, is now being distributed by the Vermont Development Commission. The film, *Green Mountain Land*, was a joint project of the Vermont Development Commission, the Vermont Historical Society and the Vermont Historic Sites Commission. Produced by Robert Flaherty, "father of the documentary film" and directed by his brother, David, it is a story of Vermont from its beginnings to the present day. It is available for distribution at the VDC.

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Montpelier, Vermont

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THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MONTPELIER, VERMONT

News & Notes

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

Volume 2 November 1950 Number 3

THE KENT TAVERN

Fine Old Landmark Restored

The fine historic old tavern at Kents Corners, in Calais, was presented to the Society in 1944 by the late A. Atwater Kent, philanthropist and pioneer radio builder, who ran a tiny shop into the world's largest radio business. Located about 10 miles north of Montpelier on the old County road, the building stands intact, very nearly as the builders left it 113 years ago. Nearby is the old West Church, believed to be the only remaining church with its original square box pews of unpainted pine.

The Kent Tavern was erected in 1837 by Abdiel Kent (1805-1887), not far from the site of his birthplace. The building is of brick, with timbers cut from the farm, and has four chimneys, several fireplaces, a spacious ballroom and a bar room. A large wooden addition was used as a general store and for the various enterprises of Abdiel. With the increase in his family, Mr. Kent gave up tending tavern and it became the birthplace of his seven children.

To Abdiel Kent belongs the distinction of having been, over a long period of years, the most active business man in town. In 1830, he commenced the manufacture of boots at Kents Corners. The boot business was carried on for 40 years, with his brother Ira, employing as many as 12 men and running a four-horse team to Canada to dispose of their goods. Harness making was carried on along with the boot enterprise. Abdiel enlarged his shop, as time went on, stocked dry goods and groceries and operated the first store at Kents Corners. Some of his other ventures were a starch factory built in 1844, an iron working machinery shop in 1847, a real estate business, and he served his town in nearly all public capacities.

The Tavern was sold by the Kent family in 1918 but later was purchased by A. Atwater Kent, a grand-nephew of the original owner and a native of Burlington. Mr. Kent always had a soft spot in his heart for the old homestead and contributed $8500 for necessary repairs during his lifetime. Additional gifts were made by many others, in particular, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Rich Kent of Calais and Brookline, Mass. After the property came into the possession of the Society, a hardworking committee, made up of Mr. Ralph W. Putnam of Waterbury and Mr. Dorman B. E. Kent of Montpelier, did wonders in directing substantial repairs on the foundations and buildings, and, with Mrs. Ira Rich Kent (noted author), restored the Tavern and made it ready for an informal opening this last September. Mrs. Kent is now chairman of the Kent Tavern committee.

Here are a few of the finishing touches put on by Mrs. Kent this summer: all doors were reinforced; floors were painted and the pattern found next to the wood in the parlor was reproduced; elsewhere, spatter work of the kind used in the region a hundred years or more ago was used; walls were repapered with reproductions of old papers; two old small paned windows were installed in the parlor in place of the large panel sash; and nine old chairs of the kind used in dancing rooms in 1840 or earlier were painted for use in the ballroom.

The rooms contain furnishings of the period of Abdiel Kent's occupancy. There are many more articles still needed—such as fireplace fittings, hooked or braided rugs and a sofa of the 1840 period for the parlor, but already there is a good representative collection of furnishings, all of them used sometime during the period and almost all acquired in the immediate neighborhood. The Tavern houses the Calais Circulating Library, begun in 1832, and, on display, is a very complete collection of spinning and weaving tools, both for wool and flax weaving, the property of the Calais Historical Society.

Even though not officially open, special tours were arranged this last summer for the Thetford Historical Society, Goddard College, the Upper Winooski Development Association, and the Calais Community Club held one of its square dances in the ballroom.

The Tavern will be operated as a country museum for the display of household equipment, farm and handicraft implements, and material which will recreate the life of the state a century or more ago. It can easily one day become the administrative center of a restored settlement—a representative community of yester-year. The Society will be pleased to receive gifts of old agricultural and domestic tools to supplement those already collected. Come next summer, the Tavern will be open and you are cordially invited to view the work that has been done. Various gatherings, some serious, some just for fun, will be held there. Notices will be sent, of course, to all VHS folks.

U. N. FLAG PRESENTED TO SOCIETY

State 4-H Clubs Sponsor Ceremony

At the observance of United Nations Day on October 24th, at which the Turkish Ambassador to the U. N., Selim Sarper, was principal speaker, Vermont's United Nations flag was accepted by Governor Harold J. Arthur and turned over to the Society for preservation. The flag was presented by state 4-H Citizenship Award Winners, Eleanor Danforth of Tunbridge and Robert Benoit of Enosburg Falls, who earned the right to make the presentation by the record of their service to their communities, schools and 4-H clubs.

TWENTY-ONE FIRMS GET CENTURY AWARDS

Woodstock Meeting Honors Vermont Business

At the 30th annual meeting of the Associated Industries of Vermont, your director participated in the special ceremony at Woodstock which honored 21 Vermont firms that had been in business for more than 100 years.

The membership of this association is made up entirely of Vermont businesses, and the Society was happy to join with Vermont Industry in making the awards.

The oldest firm on the list was the H. N. Sawyer Company, of Whitingham, engaged in wood-working and established in 1804.

RAILROAD SLEEPING-CAR INVENTED BY VERMONTER

Copy of Patent Final Proof

We have come to know the railroad sleeping-car as the *Pullman*. Through the generosity of Mrs. Mary G. Nye of Berlin, we have been presented a copy of the specifications of U. S. Patent No. 22364, dated December 21, 1858, which was issued to Plymon B. Green, the inventor of the first "car seat and couch", who sold his rights to the Pullman Company for $500. Drawings are of course included, and we can distinguish very little change in today's "pullman" sleepers.

Green was born in Williamstown and was the uncle of Mrs. Nye. Word has been handed down in the family regarding his invention, but the recently acquired patent is proof that Plymon Bennet Green invented the first form of the Pullman sleeping-car.

CONTRARY COUNTRY IS OCTOBER RELEASE

Newest Story of Vermont
By Ralph N. Hill

Just released by Rinehart, *Contrary Country* is the second book by Ralph Nading Hill dealing with his native state. Hill is one of the younger members of the Society and of the Board of Curators, and serves very ably on your Publications Committee. Seventeen lively stories of Vermont history, complete in themselves, make this book one we can enthusiastically recommend.

Hill's first work, *The Winooski,* was published in 1949 as one of the Rivers of America series. We've stocked this, as well as *Contrary Country,* at our bookstore, and you may order both volumes by writing to the Vermont Bookshelf, VHS, Montpelier. *The Winooski,* $3.50, and *Contrary Country,* $3.75, plus 12 cents postage.

MAY WE HELP YOU WITH CHRISTMAS?

A Suggestion About Presents

We plan to send you shortly a catalog of books on Vermont themes, selected from our lists and other publishers. For the history-minded person or for friends interested in Vermont or for the out and out Vermonter, a Vermont book makes a close to ideal present, for the value and interest in it outlasts many Christmases. In the meantime, you will find our books listed on the back pages of the cover of the *Quarterly.* We will send the book selected to you or see to it that it reaches any other destination; and we will forward a Christmas notification card.

JUST A REMINDER

Do We Mean You????

Needless to say, it takes money to continue the services of the Society. It is almost impossible to believe, but there are 97 members of the Society, regularly receiving the *Quarterly,* and *News and Notes,* without charge, who owe $654 in back dues. Four dues reminders have already been sent. We will soon again be sending out notices for 1951, but before we mail next year's, won't you clear up those unpaid dues for 1950—and in some cases '48 and '49? We know you'll understand. So many times, it is merely a matter of being over-busy and cubby-holing a bill until such time as we can get to it. So, if these few words apply to you, won't you sit down and make out your check for the next mail?

JUST A FEW FACTS AND FIGURES

A Month with Your Society's Staff

A statistical report is usually very dull. But we have never given you figures on your staff's production (except in the final *Quarterly* for the year); so we are listing a few for the month of October:

Museum attendance, 1584; library books used, 1626; inter-library loans, 11; letters written, 212; mailings—bills, circulars, etc., 2267; research-history queries, 5; packages mailed, 236; news releases used, 10; cartoons used by dailies, 16; special exhibit at state library meeting, 1; speaking engagements, 7; library accessions, 27; gifts received, 21; new members obtained, 67. These figures do not include the technical library work, such as 14 volumes catalogued; 93 continuations shelved; 388 cards prepared for catalog; 148 newspaper

clippings selected and filed; 81 dealers' catalogs checked . . . or our financial records which are maintained very carefully and accurately under the guidance of our auditor and treasurer.

LAST MONTH'S DONORS

Gifts Continue to be Received at Society's Offices

The following is the list of those friends and members, who have made gifts of money to the Society, books and materials to the library or exhibit pieces to the museum. They are being received steadily, and are most welcome!

Lelia Bascom, *Madison, Wisconsin;* Sylvia Bliss, *Plainfield;* P. Clarke Boardman, *South Hero;* Mrs. E. A. Bradley, *Bethel;* Mrs. Cora Preston Bugbee, *Hartford, Vt.;* Frances Hobart, *Statesville, North Carolina;* Hermon D. Hopkins, *Croton Falls, N. Y.;* Elizabeth S. MacDonald, *Wilmington;* Mary E. McKeogh, *Rutland;* Prof. Louis C. Mathewson, *Hanover, N. H.;* Mrs. Mary Greene Nye, *Berlin;* Jennie M. Park, *Des Moines, Iowa;* Mrs. W. J. Plummer, *West Lebanon, N. H.;* Charles D. Stevens, *West Burke;* Mrs. Gertrude S. Wright, *Hanover, N. H.;* Mrs. Blanche Judd Roberts, *Hanover, N. H.;* John Clement, *Rutland;* E. Parmalee Prentice, *New York, N. Y.;* Elizabeth Clement, *Rutland;* Walter B. Mahony, *New York, N. Y.;* Mrs. Ira Rich Kent, *Brookline, Mass.*

THE FIRST MEDICAL COLLEGE IN VERMONT

A Definitive History by Doctor Waite

The medical college at Castleton, Vt., functioned from 1818 to 1862. Dr. Frederick C. Waite, nationally known as a medical historian, has told the story of the college most interestingly in his book, *The First Medical College in Vermont,* published by our Society. $5 postpaid. A few copies of Dr. Waite's *The Story of a Country Medical College* (Woodstock, Vt.) are also available at $4.50. If both volumes are ordered, the price is $7.50. Either volume or both would make a pretty close to ideal Christmas present, we believe, for a physician or anyone interested in any field of medicine.

OUR STORY OF THE MONTH

We Asked For It

In our last issue we requested some Vermont grandfather clock stories, believing that there are more grandfather clocks in Vermont than in any other state, and this sample came in. If you dislike "punnish" touches to a story, skip this item.

"My father, whose sense of humor often troubled the serious members of his family, bought a grandfather clock. The question was where to put it. In the old home there was a wide landing at the head of the stairs. Mother suggested that it might be placed there. Father shook his head, and said, 'No, it might run down!' No member of the family spoke to him the rest of the day."

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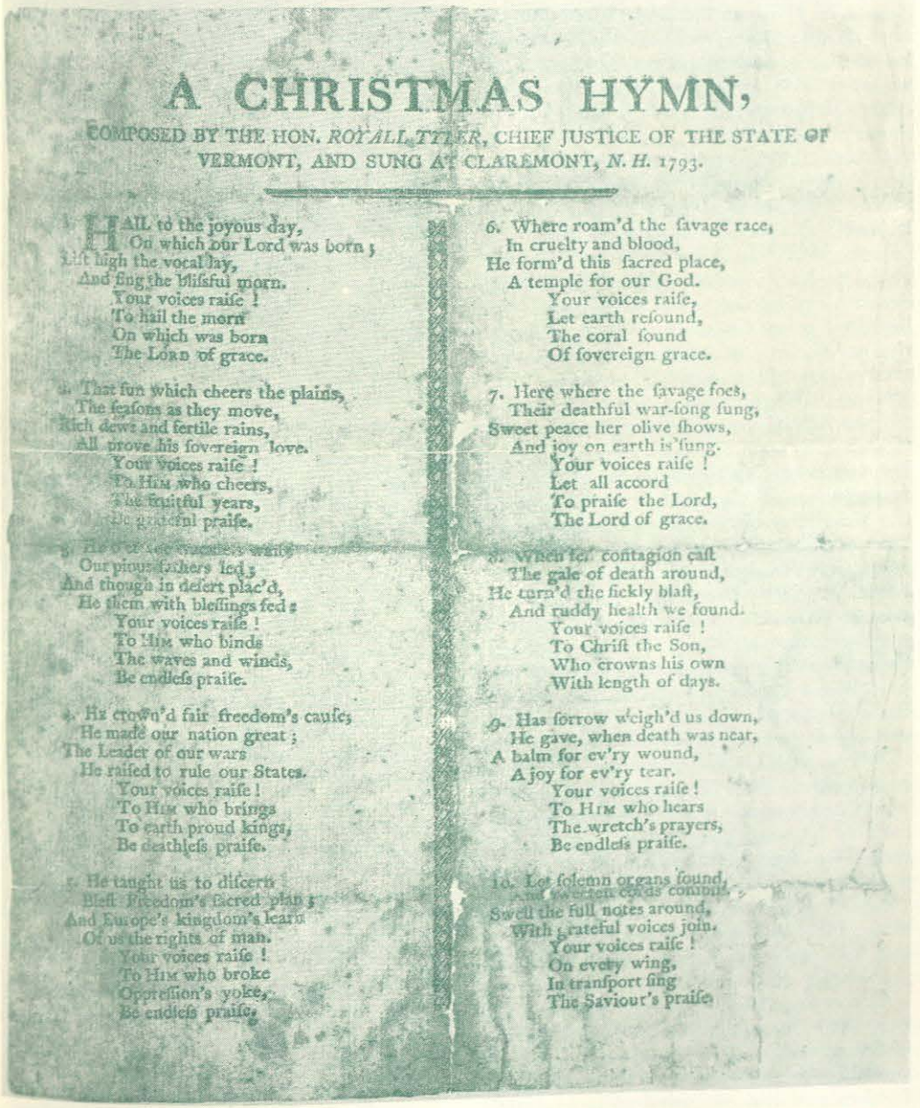

A CHRISTMAS HYMN,

COMPOSED BY THE HON. *ROYALL TYLER*, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE STATE OF VERMONT, AND SUNG AT CLAREMONT, *N. H.* 1793.

1. CALL to the joyous day,
On which our Lord was born;
Lift high the vocal lay,
And fing the bliſsful morn.
Your voices raiſe!
To hail the morn
On which was born
The LORD of grace.

2. That ſun which cheers the plains,
The ſeaſons as they move,
Rich dews and fertile rains,
All prove his ſovereign love.
Your voices raiſe!
To HIM who cheers,
The fruitful years,
Be grateful praiſe.

3. The [illegible]
Our pious fathers led;
And though in defert plac'd,
He fhem with bleſſings fed:
Your voices raiſe!
To HIM who binds
The waves and winds,
Be endleſs praiſe.

4. He crown'd fair freedom's cauſe;
He made our nation great;
The Leader of our wars
He raiſed to rule our States.
Your voices raiſe!
To HIM who brings
To earth proud kings,
Be deathleſs praiſe.

5. He taught us to diſcern
Bleſt Freedom's ſacred plan;
And Europe's kingdom's learn
Of us the rights of man.
Your voices raiſe!
To HIM who broke
Oppreſſion's yoke,
Be endleſs praiſe.

6. Where roam'd the ſavage race,
In cruelty and blood,
He form'd this ſacred place,
A temple for our God.
Your voices raiſe,
Let earth reſound,
The coral ſound
Of ſovereign grace.

7. Here where the ſavage foes,
Their deathful war-ſong ſung,
Sweet peace her olive ſhows,
And joy on earth is ſung.
Your voices raiſe!
Let all accord
To praiſe the Lord,
The Lord of grace.

8. When fell contagion caſt
The gale of death around,
He turn'd the fickly blaſt,
And ruddy health we found.
Your voices raiſe!
To Chriſt the Son,
Who crowns his own
With length of days.

9. Has ſorrow weigh'd us down,
He gave, when death was near,
A balm for ev'ry wound,
A joy for ev'ry tear.
Your voices raiſe!
To HIM who hears
The wretch's prayers,
Be endleſs praiſe.

10. Let ſolemn organs ſound,
[illegible] concord join,
Swell the full notes around,
With grateful voices join.
Your voices raiſe!
On every wing,
In tranſport ſing
The Saviour's praiſe.

The Original Broadside of this Hymn is in the Baker Memorial Library of Dartmouth College